Applegate Valley Historical Society
15050 Hwy 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon 97530

January 2004 Newsletter

Hope this finds everyone doing OK. The New Year brought some snow, even to the valley floor. Let's hope that there is enough moisture in the ground that there will be plenty of water all summer long.

Elections were held at the November meeting with the same slate of officers. They are as follows: President Bill Dunlap; V-President Alice Matheny; Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Niedermeyer; Board John Black, Steve Decker, Cathy Dunlap and Isabell Goode. Thanks to those folks for volunteering.

Mary Jane Sorber sent in this month's articles. I found them very interesting and remember most of the names mentioned. Hopefully you do too. Thanks Mary Jane.

We have a request for some help of information from Juanita Larimore. Here is the scoop. She is looking for information on her family. While visiting Darneille relatives she found a photo of her grandmother: RACHEL ELIZABETH MEE LARIMORE RYNBERGEN MILAM, (3 husbands). Now she's looking for photos or information on the following. JAMES NEWTON LARIMORE (father, born in Applegate in 1896); GEORGE C. LARIMORE (grandfather, buried at Hartley Cemetery); PERRY McGEE (or any McGee's buried at Hartley); RACHEL MEE LARIMORE et al.
She believes her father attended Applegate School, but hasn't found any documentation. Juanita is planning on visiting in August, she would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have any information. PERRY McGEE is listed as the informant on her grandfather's death certificate and she knows her great-grandfather ALFRED G. LARIMORE was married to a JANE McGEE, so she figures there is a connection. Send the information to: Juanita Larimore PO Box 2980, Santa Rosa, CA. 95405.

Yes it's meeting time again. It is the 17th of January at 10:00 AM at the Museum. Please remember to bring your chair.

I'm still asking for items for a newsletter. Anything you have, like a story, newspaper clippings etc. would be nice. I know many of you have some type of story you could give. Send them to the PO Box. I'll be looking for them. See you the 17th at 10.

AVHS Sec/Tres
Barbara Niedermeyer

Today is one of those days Potpourri wishes the front page of pictures could be in color. Black and white just doesn't begin to show the Applegate valley residents in their true colors. For instance, Lynn Valentine's plaid shirt and rich red vest (Mrs. V. made the vest herself of special material) would add a splash to the page. Then there's Boyd Gibson's beard. In all Jackson county – maybe not even in all Oregon, is there a Centennial beard to equal Boyd Gibson's. It is full and glossy and the most beautiful red imaginable. It is truly a pity the beard cannot be reproduced today in all its glory.

Color would be interesting for the gowns, too. Some of these are heirloom dresses handed down in Applegate families for years, and others have been made in keeping with the Centennial spirit.

At the party last Saturday night Mrs. Rolland Smith wore a gown which originally belonged to Lloyd Hamlin's grandmother. The dress is linen, in the natural linen color, and is made with a close-fitting bodice, long skirt trimmed with tucks and self-covered buttons.

The gown which Mrs. Lance Offenbacher wore first belonged to the late Lee Port's mother. It is of black and white cotton of unusual pattern, and is trimmed with black lace.

For the dinner Mrs. Edward Henderson wore a handsome black gown which belonged to Kathryn Offenbacher, who with her husband, Valentine Offenbacher, settled in Oregon in 1879. They were immigrants from Germany.

While everyone apparently was having a good time, one man was particularly enjoying the event. Valoris Haskins, 88, who was born near the Applegate valley and who has lived in southern Oregon all his life, said with deep feeling "This is one of the happiest days of my life." Everyone calls Mr. Haskins "Val" and he explained that the unusual name of Valoris had been given him by his parents because one of their friends bore the name.

Mr. Haskins enjoyed his dinner and then smoked a cigar. When asked to join a group on the Grange hall stage for a picture, he didn't bother to walk around to one of the sets of stairs at either side. He climbed up in his chair and then stepped on the stage, very nimbly indeed for a man almost 90.

Potpourri and Mr. H. talked for a time, and he said that his mother, who was Jeanette Beswick, and his father, William Haskins, had crossed the plains in 1852. They settled near Uniontown, and his father mined. Later he operated a wagon shop and followed the blacksmith's trade.

Bert Clute was another "old timer" at the dinner. Mr. Clute has lived in Oregon for more than 70 years and is looking forward to other Centennial events with eagerness.

H. J. Arnold and Mrs. Arnold drove all the way from Butte Falls to the Upper Applegate Grange hall for the dinner. Mr. Arnold, another native son, was born near Squaw lake, and has enjoyed watching the progress of his state and county throughout the years.

* * * * *

Even the food at the dinner had the pioneer touch. Among other dishes there was elk stew, meat loaf made from bear, dried corn cooked in milk, corn bread, homemade bread and delicious baking powder biscuits. Potpourri's first dessert was a piece of the good homemade bread, slathered with butter. We say "first dessert" advisedly. After eating the bread and butter, along came an apple pie which we couldn't resist, so that was our second dessert.

Potpourri didn't take a contribution for the food, but the Vromans went armed with a huge pot of beans which Marian V. had cooked, starting the day before in true pioneer style. By the time Photographer Bob and Potpourri had finished taking pictures, we had to scrape the bottom of the bean pot in order to get a sample – they looked delicious and were, too.

After dinner was over and the tables cleared away, group of four musicians played for dancing. They were Rodney Snyder, Chester Snyder, John Bettencourt and Robert Rametes. The dinner and dance were truly a community event. Several organizations cooperated with the Centennial committee, and even the school children did their share. Children in the fifth and sixth grade of the Applegate school made the hall decorations.

Applegate Valley Historical Society
15050 Hwy 238
CPO Box 3122
Applegate, Oregon 97530

Ruch PTA To Mark Centennial

Ruch–Ruch Parent-Teacher association will sponsor an evening's entertainment in history at Upper Applegate grange hall Saturday, March 14, at 8 p.m., commemorating Oregon's Centennial. Teachers of the early 1900's will be honored on this occasion, and among theses are Miss Kate Buckley, Mrs. Lora Pernoll, Miss Eva Couch, Mrs. Bert Harr, Mrs. Nelson Pursel, Mrs. Lester Wertz, Mrs. Ray Offenbacher, Mrs. Frank Ditsworth, and others.

A play with local setting in the 50's before schools existed in the valley will be presented. It was written by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Tweedy, assisted by Mrs. Edward Ramsey. There is a cast of 11 characters portraying events of a hundred years ago. A square dance exhibition by experienced square dancers of the valley forms the closing scene.

Following the play an illustrated history of Applegate valley schools will be given by Boyd Gibson, Ruch principal, with old time school photos flashed on the screen.

Refreshments will be served following the play. There will be no charge, and a special invitation is extended all early day teachers.

Early Rose Spurs Job

MEDFORD (Special) — Applegate Valley Garden Club has made certain that the Log Town rose will be perpetuated as a living symbol of pioneer life in the Ruch area.

Club members last week planted 66 slips of the rose along the roadside border of historic Log Town Cemetery.

The original bush, almost 100 years old, was planted near the Forest Creek Road turnoff on Highway 238. It was planted by Miriam McKey, member of a family which lived at the pioneer settlement of Log Town. Three short wooden posts and a circle of white rocks mark the bush.

Cuttings planted at the cemetery were not from the original bush but from others started from it.

Club members taking part in the Oregon Centennial project were Mrs. Robert Sorber, president; Mrs. Lance Offenbacher, Mrs. Francis Krouse, Mrs. Edmund Ramsay, Mrs. Rolland Smith, Mrs. George Brown, Mrs. Glenn Smith, Mrs. John Janssen, Mrs. Armin Richter and Mrs. Michael Loftus. Husbands of Mrs. Of-

Centennial Events Open in County With Dinner Held

First of the county's Oregon centennial celebrations was held at Upper Applegate Grange hall Saturday night. The dinner and dance, planned by the Applegate Centennial committee with the help of seven Applegate valley organizations and schools attracted about 200 persons, including many from Medford and other parts of the county.

A group of native sons and daughters attended as honored guests. Oldest of these was Caloris (Val) Haskins, 88, who was born near the Applegate in 1871, son of a pioneer couple who crossed the plains in 1852 by wagon train. Among others honored were his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Clute, Mrs. Mattie Buck, Wallace Haskins, Medford; Ernest McKee, Jim Winningham, Earl Bostwick, Leonard McKee, Mrs. Luella McKee Dunnington, Mrs. Floyd MeKee, Mrs. J. W. Bates, Medford, Ray Offenbacher and Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Smith.

Robert Sorber, chairman of the Applegate Centennial committee, served as master of ceremonies and introduced the honored guests. Groups cooperating with the committee on the event, and their representatives, were Upper Applegate Extension unit, Mrs. Edna Sawyer; Lower Applegate Extension unit, Mrs. Chester Kubli; Applegate Grange, Mrs. Lance Offenbacher ;Ruch school, Boyd Gibson; Applegate school and Applegate Parent-Teacher association, Mrs. Elizabeth Henderson; Ruch Parent-Teacher association, Harlan Cantrall.

APPLEGATE VALLEY 350 Attend Pageant

By MAUDE ZIEGLER

Applegate Valley – An estimated crowd of 350 persons attended the Centennial pageant at Upper Applegate Grange hall Saturday night sponsored by two extension units of the Applegate valley.

"I've learned a great deal of how the pioneers mastered their tasks," was the opinion of several attending the event, which was written by Mrs. Edna Sawyer after considerable research on methods of establishing frontier life.

A fur trading scene, with Ed Ramsey as the fur trader, and Mrs. Glenn Saltmarsh and Mrs. Gerald Buck as the bartering squaws, represented the earliest activity in Oregon, which was followed by the coming of the pioneer family, portrayed by Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Williams and son, Gary, and Ann Pearson.

Shakes Split

Actual splitting of shakes with a froe for the first homes was shown by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Travis, while the details of soap making, utilized lye distilled from an ash hopper was shown by Mrs. Fred West and Mrs. William Ziegler.

The old time washing and ironing scenes were enacted by Mrs. Glenn Williams and Mrs. Clarence Williams. Quilting by kerosene lamps was portrayed by Mrs. Stella Winnigham, Mrs. Harley Hall, Mrs. Flossy Garner, and Mrs. Rex Davis. Filtering gold in a "long-tom" sluice was shown by Hub Freo, Billy Hard, Bryan Waldeyer, and Mrs. Mike Loftus, while trading gold at the store was enacted by Clarence Buck and Mrs. Charles Williams.

A bit of humor was interspersed in the pantomime with Boyd Gibson as narrator. Old time music throughout the show was given by Mrs. Florence Lance, Mrs. Otis Buck, Robert Rametes, and John Eek. A mixed quartet included Mrs. Ashton Foerst, Mrs. Howard Peite, Mrs. Earl Hvall, and Mrs. Al Horn.

A display of ore and semi-precious stones from the Applegate rock shop owned by Kenneth Paine was shown by Hub Freo. An added feature was a style show of fashions from 1850 to 1914 arranged by Mrs. W. D. Pearson. Those modeling wedding dresses 100 years ago were Mrs. Ve non Fowler, Mrs. Edwa Henderson, Mrs. Armin Ric ter, and Mrs. Robert Sorber

Others Modeling

Others modeling were M Bert Harr, Mrs. Penny Ca well, Mrs. George Brow Miss Julia Brown, Mrs. Gle Williams, Mrs. Le Roy Off bacher and Danna Lynn fenbacher. Miss Mary Lucy, home demonstrati agent, modeled a form fitti creation with space helmet a prediction for 1968, and burlesque act was given Mrs. Lance Offenbacher a Mrs. Harry Davis.

A vocal trio was compris of Mrs. Lloyd Shannon, M Ed Ramsey, and the Rev. E Best. Invocation was given the Mr. Best of Ruch Co munity church and the be diction was given by the R Thornton Gapen of Applegate church. The prologue, a po written by Mrs. Leon Off bacher, was read by Mrs. H bert Nelson. George Redhe was master of ceremoni and Robert Sorber, Cent nial chairman, welcomed audience.